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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,734	12/18/2001	Baowei Kang	B784.312-1	8852

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KHIEM D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2823

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/017,734

Applicant(s)

KANG ET AL.

Examiner

Khiem D Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 8-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 033004. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 30th, 2004 has been entered. A new rejection is made as set forth in this Office Action. Claims (2-6 and 8-14) are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 6 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Francis et al. (U.S. Patent 6,482,681).

In re claims 6 and 8-13, **Francis** discloses a method for fabricating IGBT, MCT or GTO, wherein the fabrication is in the following sequence:

PROCEDURE 1: form a uniformly-doped monocrystalline n⁺ starting wafer (**FIG. 4: 20**) fabricating a nonuniformly doped n-type substrate which contains an n⁺ layer on

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the frontside of the wafer and a diffused n^+ layer (**FIG. 4: 30**) on the backside (col. 5, lines 47 to col. 6, line 2), wherein the diffused n^+ layer is formed in the first step of this procedure (col. 4, lines 3-40 and **FIGS. 1-4**);

PROCEDURE II: fabricating the frontside structure of either an IGBT, MCT, or GTO (**FIG. 4**) on the frontside of the substrate wherein the n^+ layer is exposed (col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 6);

PROCEDURE III: thinning the wafer from the backside of the substrate whereon the diffused n^+ layer is exposed, by grinding and polishing, until an n-type residual diffused-layer is reserved (col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 6 and **FIGS. 4-5**);

PROCEDURE IV: forming a backside p^+ emitter layer by ion implanting into the backside surface of the wafer wherein the residual diffused-layer is exposed thus producing a p-n junction near the backside surface of the wafer which is composed of the p^+ emitter layer and the n-type residual diffused layer (col. 4, line 19 to col. 5, line 46);

PROCEDURE V: depositing metals (**FIG. 4: 23, 24, 25, and 26**) on the backside surface of the wafer wherein the backside p^+ emitter layer is exposed, followed by sintering/alloying; and after the substrate is thinned, i.e. after finishing PROCEDURE III or since PROCEDURE IV, only low-temperature processes occur at less than 600° C (30 to 60 minutes at 300 ° C. to 400° C.), (col. 5, lines 37-46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis et al. (U.S. Patent 6,482,681) as applied to claims 6 and 8-13 above.

In re claims 2, 3, 4, 5, and 14, **Francis** fails to disclose the ranges for the thickness of the backside p^+ emitter layer and the n-type residual diffused-layer, the implanting dose of the backside p^+ emitter layer, and the doping concentration of the n-type residual diffused-layer. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of making semiconductor devices to determine the workable or optimal ranges for the thickness of the backside p^+ emitter layer and the n-type residual diffused-layer, the implanting dose of the backside p^+ emitter layer, and the doping concentration of the n-type residual diffused-layer through routine experimentation and optimization to obtain optimal or desired device performance because the thickness of the backside p^+ emitter layer and the n-type residual diffused-layer, the implanting dose of the backside p^+ emitter layer, and the doping concentration of the n-type residual diffused-layer are result-effective variables and there is no evidence the thickness of the backside p^+ emitter layer and the n-type residual diffused-layer, the implanting dose of the backside p^+ emitter layer, and the doping concentration of the n-type residual diffused-layer are critical and it has been held that it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable range of a result-effective variable within given prior art conditions by routine experimentation. See MPEP § 2144.05. Note that the specification contains no disclosure of either the critical nature of the claimed dimensions of any unexpected results arising there from. Where patentability is aid to be based upon particular chosen dimensions or

upon another variable recited in a claim, the Applicant must show that the chosen dimensions are critical. In re Woodruff, 919 F.2d 1575, 1578, 16 USPQ2d 1934, 1936 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Response to Amendment

Response to Applicant's Arguments

Applicants contend that the reference Francis et al. (U.S. Patent 6,482,681) herein known as Francis fails to show, teach, or suggest forming a diffused n⁺ buffer layer on a backside of the wafer.

In response to Applicants contention that Francis fails to show, teach, or suggest forming a diffused n⁺ buffer layer on a backside of the wafer, examiner respectfully disagree. Applicants are directed to col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 2 where Francis disclosed that a punch-through IGBT can also be created using a diffused wafer. That is, the N⁺ buffer 30 of FIG. 5 may be diffused prior to the complete thinning of the wafer, and after the diffusion, the backside of the wafer is grown down. Thus, Francis provides evidence that a diffused n⁺ buffer layer may be formed on the backside of the wafer and this process is carried out before thinning the wafer from the backside of the substrate. For these reasons, examiner holds the rejection proper.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khiem D Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on (571) 272-1855. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3432 for regular communications and (703) 305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



K.N.
June 10, 2004

W. DAVID COLEMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER